

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Williams College has now 191 students. Indiana has a school fund of \$8,799,191.

Hillsdale College, Michigan, has 189 students.

New-Jersey has 1,542 school buildings, worth altogether \$6,205,000, and 3,753 teachers.

The Democratic members of the Alabama Assembly have voted down a resolution for compulsory education.

The permanent school fund of Minnesota is \$3,191,042. This year there will be an additional sum of nearly \$200,000.

There is to be an effort made in the Kansas Legislature this Winter to re-establish the Leavenworth State Normal School.

It is anticipated that a large number of candidates will present themselves for the Harvard examinations for women next year.

The Trustees of Maine State College are thinking of erecting machine shops for instruction on the Russian plan, which has been adopted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The diploma to be presented to the graduates of the Ann Arbor Homeopathic College at its Commencement will be the first ever issued from a State University to a homeopathic physician as such.

The Japanese Vice-Minister of Education has presented to the American Bureau of Education at Philadelphia the entire Japanese educational exhibit at Philadelphia, this being a contribution to a national educational museum.

Martin Wilcox of New-Haven, a Yale College junior, has taken the prize medal for 1876 offered for the best essay by the editors of the *Yale Literary Magazine*. The essay, entitled "Two English Humorists," was a criticism and comparison of Sterne and Smollett.

Syracuse University, says *The Courier* of that city, is not so rich by \$25,000 as it was supposed to be. It received last year a donation to that amount in railroad bonds which proved to be so worthless that upon being taxed on those bonds the university concluded to surrender them.

The number of pupils enrolled in the public schools of the District of Columbia during the past year was 19,629, the colored pupil numbering 6,676. There were 307 teachers employed, and the total expenditures for the year were \$899,078.53. The schools of the District have never received help from Congress.

The examination of candidates for State Licenses for teaching will be held at Elmira on the 14th and 15th of December by a committee designated for that purpose. The examination will be made in the common English branches, algebra, civil government, school economy, United States history, and other subjects of a normal course.

In Philadelphia last year there were 1,848 teachers who drew salaries amounting to an average of \$633.81. The salaries of principals subtracted therefrom left \$1,000 per teacher. In the same way for 95,000 children! St. Louis spent \$17,690 for 34,000 pupils; Chicago, \$820 only for 36,000 scholars, and Lowell, \$795 for 5,900 pupils.

A new "English Literature Prize" of \$50 has been established at Trinity College, to be given to one of the five best English scholars in the Junior Class who shall sustain the best examination in English literature from the earliest times to the present day, with special reference to the writings of the fourteenth century." A new French prize has also been established for the sophomores in memory of President Jackson, called the "Pascal-Fenner Prize."

Harvard has 821 students. The candidates for higher degrees have increased by 10. A new feature this year is the admission of unmarried students. Upon payment of a moderate fee persons 21 years of age can pursue such studies as they are qualified for without passing the entrance examination. A "certificate of proficiency" is given to such of them as attain 75 per cent of the maximum mark in their courses.

Boston ranks among the highest in the amount of material furnished free to pupils. Last year Boston furnished books to the cost of \$51,879, while the bill for books, stationery, &c., was \$104,252 for 44,000 pupils. Philadelphia spent \$109,998 in the same way for 95,000 children! St. Louis spent \$17,690 for 34,000 pupils; Chicago, \$820 only for 36,000 scholars, and Lowell, \$795 for 5,900 pupils.

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Prof. W. S. Clark of Amherst, who went to Japan last year to establish an agricultural college, writes home a good account of his work and its progress. The buildings have been erected at the national expense. He has 200 students and finds it necessary to have more teachers, and has sent for a professor of agriculture. Mr. W. P. Brooks of the Class of '75 at Amherst has accepted the professorship at a salary of \$2,500 a year. He will take with him several varieties of American seeds for planting.

During the session of 1875-'6, at the University of Virginia, 333 students were matriculated. Five of these were from the State. At the last session of the General Assembly an act was passed making an addition of \$15,000 to the annuity of the university, upon the condition that it would receive into all its schools, except the professional, free of charge for tuition, all Virginia students who had attained the age of 18 years and had made such proficiency in their studies as would enable them to profit by the course of instruction afforded by the university. They will be required to pass an examination.

Dartmouth has 439 students, the Junior Class, with its membership of 92, being the largest. The requirements for admission, as set forth by the new catalogue, are increased from last year. The Latin requirement has been increased, while the whole of geometry, both plane and solid, is now demanded of the applicants for membership to the Freshman Class. The professors announce that the new plan of admitting candidates upon certificate and a three months' probation has worked better than was anticipated. The examination of the freshmen has virtually been in progress for three months, and the possibility of being dropped at the end of this period has had an excellent effect in stimulating the class to unusual study.

Prof. Root is about to make a change in the scientific department of Amherst. Heretofore instruction in physics and mechanics has been entirely theoretical, but he proposes to introduce the plan pursued in the German universities, of compelling each student to make personal investigations and draw inductions from the use of models in the solution of a given problem. For this purpose a physical laboratory is to be fitted up and supplied with tables and tools with which to make the necessary models. The Junior Class will begin this work after the Thanksgiving recess. The sense of gravity at Amherst is the problem assigned the class, and the time allotted for its solution is the end of the Winter term, when written theses will be presented on the subject.

The Freshman Class at Union numbers about 60 members. The Sophomore Class is a little larger than last year. Prof. R. B. Welch, for some ten years in charge of the department of belles-lettres and elocution, has been elected to a chair. His successor is not yet known. Prof. Wendell Lamoreux, formerly a professor at Union, late of Columbia College, has returned to Union. He will take charge of the library of the college, and deliver occasional lectures on literature and kindred subjects. With these exceptions the Faculty is unchanged. During the vacation 3,000 volumes were added to the library—the new books treating mainly of mathematics, physics, theology and metaphysics.

The receipts of Virginia from the Peabody fund have diminished from \$88,875 in 1874 to \$19,800 in 1876, and there is reason to suppose a still further reduction in future years. The percentage of school population in average daily attendance in the Virginia schools is: White, 76.3; colored, 75.4. Number of teachers: White males, 2,495; white females, 1,489; colored males, 418; colored females, 218. Average monthly salaries from all sources: Males, \$34.95; females, \$30.57. Of the school-houses 2,084 are long, 1,824 frame, 136 brick, 31 stone; 1,750 have good furniture, and 1,499 are owned by districts; 333 were built during the year. The value of school property owned by districts is \$531,730. The number of county and city superintendents, 94; average of county superintendents' salaries from State, \$330, and from counties, \$195; average of city superintendents' salaries from State, \$246; from State and city, \$1,118.74.

The filing-shop, the first of the series of mechanical workshops in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was opened last week. This shop has about 30 places for work, each fitted with a vice, the students having separate rooms containing tools necessary for the work of the course, so that different men can use the same vise at different times. The design is to teach practical mechanism by the class system under the supervision of a thorough mechanist, where the use of the various tools is learned by working out a set of models. Instead of the students working with different tools, and

upon different work, thus requiring individual instruction, the whole class work alike, and can thus be taught together almost as easily as one member alone. The present plan is to spend ten weeks at filing, when the student will be transferred to the forging-shop for the same length of time, and thence to the turning-shop, models being worked out in these as in the filing department. The two latter are not yet fitted up. A new two-years' course in practical mechanism has been started for the education of practical engineers and mechanists, with yearly tuition of \$125—the regular institute being \$200.

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